

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5972

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TAGS: EWWT, NO

SUBJ: DEEPWATER PORT AGREEMENT

REF: A) OSLO 2792, B) SENS/BANK TELCON 6/7/78

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION BROCK ADAMS' ANNOUNCEMENT ON DEEPWATER PORT AGREEMENT WITH NORWAY. CHANGES IN TEXT (REFTELCON) REFLECT REQUESTS BY NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WERE APPROVED BY SECRETARY'S PARTY (KEDZIOR AND JEWELL) PRIOR TO MEETING WITH PRESS.

BEGIN TEXT:

OSLO, NORWAY--U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION BROCK ADAMS SAID TODAY THE UNITED STATES AND NORWAY HAVE REACHED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON A TEXT FOR AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES PERMITTING THE USE OF THE NEW LOUISIANA OFFSHORE OIL PORT (LOOP) BY NORWEGIAN FLAG SUPERTANKERS.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY SECRETARY ADAMS AT A NEWS CONFERENCE TODAY IN OSLO, WHERE HE IS VISITING AS PART OF A SERIES OF UNCLASSIFIED

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MEETINGS WITH EUROPEAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS.

THE AGREEMENT WOULD ASSURE THAT NORWEGIAN TANKERS COMPLY WITH U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY STANDARDS REGARDING DEEPWATER PORT OPERATIONS.

QUOTE THE AGREEMENT IS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT WILL

SERVE AS A MODEL FOR OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND ENHANCE OUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE SAFE TRANSPORT OF OVERSEAS OIL, UNQUOTE SECRETARY ADAMS SAID. NORWAY HAS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT SUPERTANKER FLEETS. AGREEMENT IS REQUIRED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE DEEPWATER PORT ACT OF 1974.

EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES WILL TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AT A DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

THE LOUISIANA PORT (LOOP) IS THE FIRST OIL TERMINAL TO BE LICENSED UNDER TERMS OF THE DEEPWATER PORT ACT. WHEN OPERATIONAL IN 1980, LOOP IS EXPECTED TO HANDLE INITIALLY ABOUT 1.4 MILLION BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL A DAY. THE OIL WILL BE UNLOADED 18 MILES AT SEA FROM TANKERS TOO LARGE TO UNLOAD IN MOST AMERICAN COASTAL HARBORS. THE USE OF DEEPWATER PORTS IS EXPECTED TO HOLD DOWN THE TRANSPORTATION COST OF IMPORTING OIL AND TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE TO COASTAL AREAS.

WHILE NEGOTIATING THE NORWEGIAN AGREEMENT, U.S. REPRESENTATIVES ALSO MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF DENMARK, SWEDEN, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND LIBERIA. AGREEMENTS WITH THESE COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. END TEXT.

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